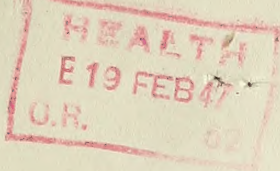


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DULVERTON RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1945

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR



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TO THE
CHAIRMAN & MEMBERS
OF THE
DULVERTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my Report on the
Health of the Dulverton Rural District during the year 1945.

My headings are those formulated by the
Ministry of Health.

THE
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF THE
NAVY

NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON, D. C.

TO THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
SUBJECT: [illegible]

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RECEIVED
NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON, D. C.
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CHAIRMAN:-

Col. H. W. H. Amory, Hole Manor, Exbridge, Dulverton.

VICE CHAIRMAN:-

Mr. H. Williams, Great Ash, Winsford.

Col. E. R. Clayton.

Mr. A. V. Norman.

Mr. William Perry.

Maj. Gen. A. W. Peck.

Mr. C. H. Abbot.

Mr. C. J. Purchase.

Mr. J. G. Hannaford.

Rev. P. W. P. Hancock.

Mr. C. F. Avery.

Mr. H. Govier.

Mr. J. E. W. Arthur.

Mr. J. F. Clatworthy.

Mr. Henry Williams.

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL:-

R. W. Halse, Esq., Solicitor, Clerk.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY:-

(a) Part-time M.O.H.:-

G. NICHOLSON, M.D., D.P.H., F.R.C.S., E.

District M.O. and Public Vaccinator: Dr. Mc. Kinney.

(b) Sanitary Inspector et al:-

H. A. JEWELL, A.R.San.I., M. Inst., S.E., M.S.I.A.,

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STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres.....	78,159
Population, 1944 (estimated).....	4,510
Inhabited Houses.....	1,170
Number of Inhabited Houses according to rate books.....	1,248
Number of Families or separate occupiers.....	1,248
Rateable Value (reduced).....	£17,914
Sum produced by 1d. rate.....	£70

Social Conditions - Good. The vast majority of the inhabitants are engaged in agricultural pursuits; they appear to be exceptionally healthy in consequence.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1945

	TOTAL	M.	F.		
Live Births { Legitimate	65	24	41	} Birth Rate	15.3
{ Illegitimate	5	4	1		
Deaths.....	66	39	27	total births.	70.0
Still Births., (Illegitimate)	1	0	1	<u>death rate</u>	13.0
Number of women dying of or in consequence of childbirth. Nil				} From Sepsis	Nil
				} Other Causes	Nil

2. Death rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 Live Births.....	14.2
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births.....	Nil
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births.....	200
Deaths from Measles.....	Nil
" " Whooping Cough.....	Nil
" " Diarrhoea (under two years).....	1
(No unusual Mortality)	

The statistics for England and Wales were - Rate per 1,000 of the Population:-

Births - Live Births.....	16.1
Still Births.....	.46
Deaths.....	11.4
Death Rate per 1,000 Births.....	46.0
(Under the age of one year)	

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year nor is there any evidence that the health of the community has been adversely affected by unemployment.

CAUSES OF DEATH

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.....	3	Other Respiratory Diseases.....	1
Cancer.....	13	Pneumonia.....	0
Cerebral.....	7	Digestive Disease.....	3
Heart Disease.....	4	Violence.....	2
Bronchitis.....	2	Organital Malformation.....	0
Other Causes.....	8	Suicide.....	2
Cancer of Stomach.....	2	Nephritis.....	3
Cancer of Breast.....	0		
Cancer of Oesophagus.....	0		

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HOUSING.

No building has taken place during the past year.
Meat and other Foods: See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

There are two certified T.T. and 3 Accredited Dairies in the District and the standard of the samples obtained from them have been very high. Samples for Tubercle Bacilli were taken at regular intervals from different parts of the district, and all were reported free from infection. The examination of Milk for Tubercle Bacilli is carried out at the County Laboratory.

ADULTERATION.

The Council are not a ~~Local~~ Authority for enforcing the Food and Drugs (Adulteration Act) 1928.

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Foodstuffs are submitted to the County Laboratory at Taunton.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Whooping cough and Measles was prevalent during the year and Pneumonia has always shown a high figure. During 1945 Dulverton had cases of Notifiable Infectious Diseases other than Tuberculosis.

VACCINATIONS.

A number of vaccinations were carried out by the M.O.H. during 1945.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)

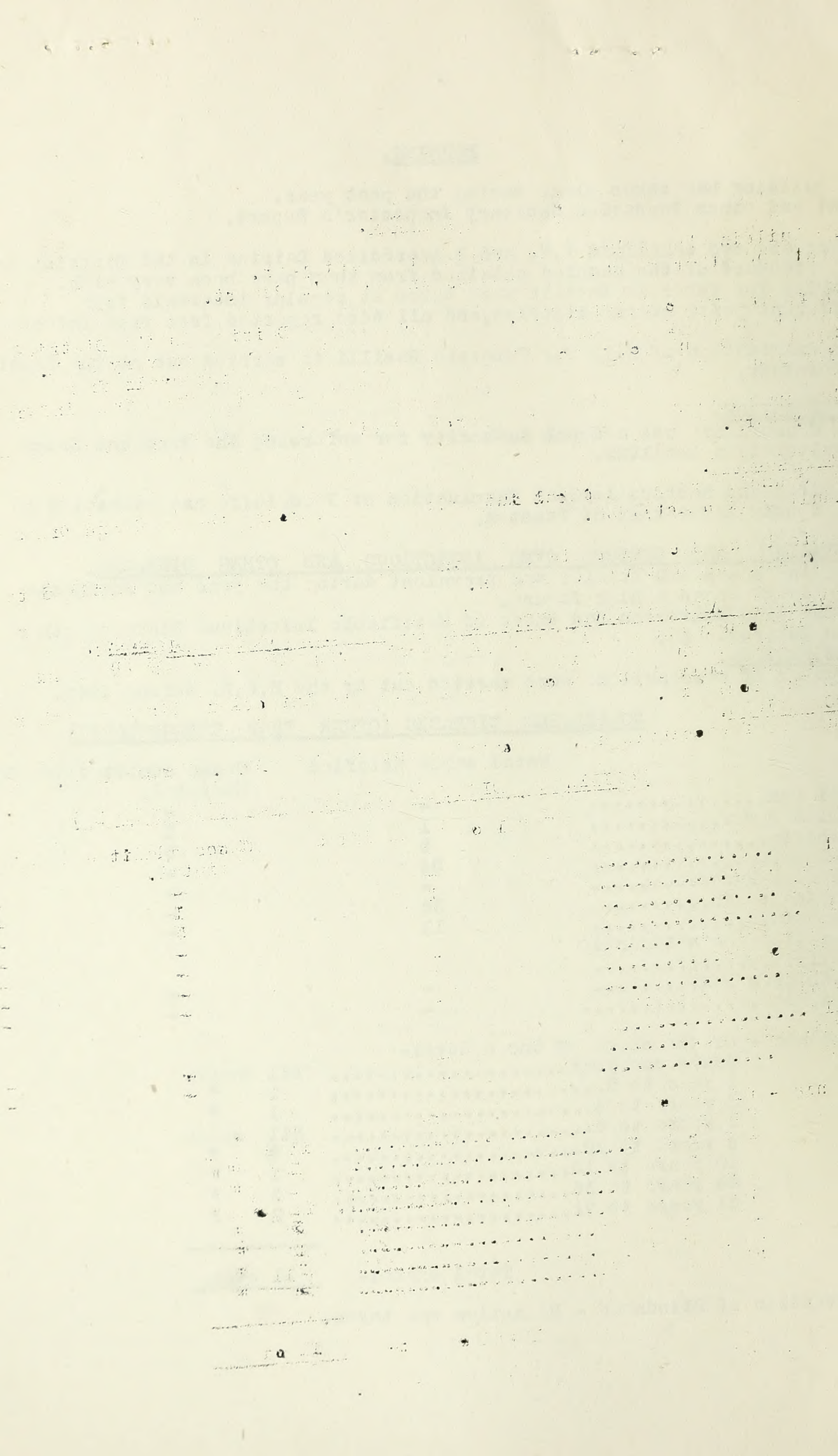
	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths
Small Pox.....	~	~	~
Scarlet Fever.....	1	1	1
Diphtheria.....	5	5	1
Measles.....	84	~	1
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	~	~	1
Whooping cough.....	36	~	1
Pneumonia.....	11	~	1
Other diseases notifiable locally.....			
e.g. Chicken Pox.....	~	~	1
Erysipelas.....	~	~	1

Pneumonia - Of the cases of the above:-

Under one year.....	Nil cases.
1 year to 2.....	1 "
2 years to 4.....	1 "
3 years to 5.....	Nil cases
6 years to 10.....	5 "
10 years to 15.....	1 "
28 years to 36.....	3 "
51 years to 71.....	2 "

Total cases:- 11 cases

Prevention of Blindness - No action was taken.



GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
IN THE AREA

1. Nursing in the Home.

- (a) Nursing is provided by the Somerset District Nursing Association.
There is no co-ordination with the Sanitary Authority.
(b) Infectious Diseases. No provision.

2. Midwives.

None employed or subsidised by the Local Authority.
Number of Midwives practising in the Area - 6.

3. Arrangements for the carrying out of Pathological and Bacteriological investigation, Analysis of Foodstuffs etc., are made with the Somerset County Laboratories.

4. Hospitals.

There are no hospitals of any description within the Area. Hospital Accommodation for Infectious Diseases - no change.

5. Maternity and Nursing Homes.

No action has been taken under the Nursing Home Act of 1927.

6. Cases of Maternal Mortality and Puerperal Pyrexia are investigated by the County Authority.

7. There is no provision for Unmarried Mothers, Homeless children or Illegitimate infants in the Area.

8. Institutional Provision for the cure of Mental Defectives. None in the Area.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. Water Supply.

- (1) To date nine of the largest villages have main supply.
Samples were taken by the Sanitary Inspector in various parishes during the year, and the results of these are set out in his Report.

2. Drainage.

Dulverton, Brushford and Exford have modern works.
Winsford will be sewered as soon as circumstances permit.

3. Rivers and Streams Pollution. No action was considered necessary.

4. Closet Accommodation.

This is rapidly being improved in the scattered cottages.

5. Schools.

- (1) Kingbrompton, Dulverton and Brushford are the only schools having flush lavatories. Exton, however, has a piped water supply.
There is still room for a great deal of improvement in the sanitary arrangements to the remainder and the matter has been taken up with the Authorities concerned.

(2) Public Cleansing. See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(3) Sanitary Inspection of the Area. See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(4) Eradication of Bed Bugs. No action has been required up to the present.

THEORY

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1. The first part of the document is a letter from the President of the United States to the Congress, dated January 1, 1861. It is a copy of the original, and is signed by the President.

Non-Indians

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Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 - No action taken.
Public Health Act, 1925 (Section 62) - No action taken.

My thanks are due to Mr. Jewell for his assistance in compiling this report.
I have the honour to be,
Your obedient servant,
GEORGE NICHOLSON,
Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

To the Chairman and Members of the Halverton Rural District Council:

My Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report for the period from 1st January to the 31st December (inclusive) 1945, in accordance with Article 19(12) of the Statutory Orders, 1925.

Owing to War conditions many additional duties have had to be carried out but this has not in any way prejudiced the Public Health side of my Council's work as in common with many other Rural Districts the hours of work had to be long and continuous.

NUISANCES AND COMPLAINTS.

Defective Cess Pits.....	7
Offensive Accumulation.....	5
Fouled Watercourses.....	3
Dirty Premises.....	6
Bad or Suspected Water Supply.....	20
Overcrowding.....	23
Animals kept in unfit places.....	1
Defective Sanitary Conveniences.....	15
Flouring Complaints.....	150
Miscellaneous.....	50
Garage and Drainage.....	38
TOTAL.....	<u>321</u>

Other than Cowsheds.

In addition to those mentioned under Housing Defects.

840 visits were made in connection with these, and all were remedied with the necessity of issuing Statutory Notices.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

1. That All slaughterhouses in the district are now closed, slaughtering being done in the Central Abattoir at Minehead, but regular inspections are made of meat arriving at the butchers shops.

RECORD OF INSPECTIONS.

2. Routing Visits.....	142
Occasional Slaughtering.....	26

MEAT UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

	Whole Carcass	Fore Quarter	Hind Quarter	Head	Livers	Lungs	Hearts	Spleen.
Bovines	-	2	2	-	2	1	-	-
Calves	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pigs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sheep	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	2	2	-	2	1	-	-

MILK- Details of Inspection for the past year are set out as follows:

Cowsheds and Dairy visits.....	200
Attention was drawn to the following:-	
Defective Floors.....	16
Defective Drainage.....	30
Unwashing.....	40
Fly Floors.....	50
Bad Approach Yards.....	30

TOTAL:- 356

Milk supplies to most of the cowsheds constitutes a problem, especially as the occupier and not the owner is responsible for improvement. Until the Milk and Dairies Orders are amended to make all improvements in this connection the duty of the Landlord I am afraid the progress will be slow in this and other work in connection with cowsheds, but at the same time every effort is being made by my Council to carry out their duties under the Act.

12 samples taken for Graded milk.	
20 samples taken for T.B.	
Number of Producers.....	136
Number of Distributors on the register.....	
Divided as follows:-	
(a) Distributors.....	0
(b) Distributors who are also producers.....	136

WATER SUPPLY

With a succession of very dry winters supplies have been below average. Outlying cottages dependant on shallow wells experienced difficulties from time to time. The supply to the village of Brushford needs some attention mainly owing to the fact that the draw off at peak periods is heavy over a long length of 2 inch main. To rectify this it is proposed to construct a service reservoir from which in peak periods they will draw from direct.

All water schemes under the control of the Council are attended to at least once a week.

A scheme for the improvement of the water supply to the village of Exford has been prepared for the Minister's consideration but owing to the fact that a compulsory order has to be obtained for the purchase of the land considerable delay is bound to occur before anything further can be done.

Samples taken from all mains supplies were found to be satisfactory.

Closet Accomodation:- The provision of improved Sanitary Conveniences continues to be enforced through the inspections carried out of working class property.

SCAVENGING AND SALVAGE

The value of the salvage collected over the past year has equalled a threnny rate.

Disposal is by incineration at the Dulverton Works. All tins are baled by a power press and there is a good market for them.

The Refuse Lorry is not kept solely for this work, and when not so employed does other work in connection with this department.

HOUSING.

Owing to the shortage of labour and material very little constructional work has been possible but every effort has been made to keep ordinary repairs done. It has become necessary to use cottages which had already been condemned and these were to the best of the Council's ability put into habitable repairs by the Council's workmen.

By-Laws relating to Housing, etc.

There is now a Town Planning Scheme in course of preparation for the area. The Ribbon Development Act is controlled by the County Council.

Sewerage Disposal and Drainage.

Main works are installed at Dulverton, Brushford and Exford and it is hoped in the future to submit schemes for Winsford, Withypool and Brompton Regis.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

At the request of the Medical Officer of Health enquiries into all reported cases of Infectious Diseases were at once carried out:-

Number of Premises visited.....	9
Number of Rooms disinfected.....	9

PETROLEUM ACTS.

Petroleum Licences granted during the year.....	34
Amount Collected.....	£16-15-0d.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS FOR THE YEAR

Housing Inspections.....	218
Housing re-inspections.....	275
Inspection of Meat and other foods.....	78
Cowsheds and Dairies.....	119
Factories and Workshops.....	16
Infectious Diseases.....	9
Visits in connection with Nuisances and Complaints.....	46
Visits in connection with Rats and Mice.....	44
Miscellaneous Visits.....	14
(a) Milk Sampling, Water Sampling, etc.....	22
(b) Water supplies and Sewage Disposal etc.....	225
Total:-	1066

CONCLUSION

I desire once again to express my thanks to the Chairman, Councillors and Medical Officer for their consideration and support given me during the past year, also to the Clerk and the staff for their co-operation in the work of this Department.

I am Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

HORACE A. JEWELL.

Sanitary Surveyor & Inspector.

Dulverton,
Somerset,
January, 1946.

